(d) whether the said reason was not avoidable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Retail prices in Delhi of gram dal, urad dal (chilka) and Masoor dal (red) have shown no increase. Retail prices of tur dal has reduced over the month and that of moong dal (chilka) rose by Rs. 1.50 per kg.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Surplus production of sugarcane

†571. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar likely to be produced this year in view of surplus production of sugarcane;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check refusal of sugarcane by the sugar mills;

(c) whether Government has suggested to the sugar mills to produce ethanol from sugarcane in place of sugar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amounts outstanding against Government, co-operative and private sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) the action taken against the sugar mills which have not paid the amount of sugarcane to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The quantity of sugar likely to be produced during the sugar season 2007-08 is provisionally estimated at 280 plus lac tons.

(b) No case of refusal of sugarcane from the sugar mills has been reported to the Central Government.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce over supply of sugar and to augment availability of ethanol, the Government has decided to permit sugar factories to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice.

(e) and (f) As per the information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the sector-wise cane price arrears for the sugar season 2006-07, as on 15th October, 2007 were as under:—

Sector	Cane Price Arrears (Rs. in crores)
Public	155.03
Cooperative	183.07
Private	1174.01
TOTAL :	1512.11

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(However, as per the latest information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh on 16.11.2007, the cane price arrears stands at Rs. 1386.65 crores).

Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that 14 private sugar mills and 6 co-operative sugar mills have already made 100% cane price payment. Recovery certificates have been issued against 12 sugar mills of private sector who made lowest payment till 31.08.2007. Recovery certificates have also been issued against 64 sugar mills of private sector who had outstanding cane dues even after 31.08.2007. 2 sugar mills have made 100% payment after issue of the Recovery certificates. As regards cane price arrears of cooperative and public sector sugar mills, they have been provided loan assistance and State Government guarantee to take loan from financial institutions.

Smuggling of PDS foodgrains to Bangladesh

†572. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that large portion of foodgrains released for public distribution system is being smuggled to Bangladesh.

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to arrest such trends and bring the guilty to book;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the poor are not getting foodgrains from ration shops in many parts of the country including that of West Bengal;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has increased the prices of ration foodgrains to be provided to the poor; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and its impact on the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Some such reports have been received. They have been sent to the State Government of West Bengal for inquiry and report on Action Taken. Replies of the State Government are still awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Question does not arise.

Prices of foodgrains for BPL and APL people

†573. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the people living below poverty line in various States, specially in backward and rural areas of the country alongwith the details of its percentage in the entire country;

(b) whether the prices of the essential commodities and the foodgrains available at fair price shops for the people living above poverty line are almost at par with the prices of the open market;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.